

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 5 and 7-10 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been newly added. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to because Fig. 1 contained a minor informality. Applicants filed a corrected Fig. 1 in the previous response filed October 2, 2003. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shiau, U.S. Patent 5,880,857. This rejection is respectfully overcome.

Claim 2, which the Examiner objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, has been amended into independent form to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Claim 7 has likewise been amended into independent form. Claim 8 depends from claim 7. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, and should be allowable for the same reasons claim 2 is allowable. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiau as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tanioka, U.S. Patent 5,153,925. This rejection is respectfully overcome.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 2, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter. Thus, claim 5 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 2. Claim 6 is allowable due to its dependency from claim 5, which depends from claim 2. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Newly added claims 11 and 12 correspond to claims 5 and 8, but depend on different claims. Accordingly, these claims should be allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

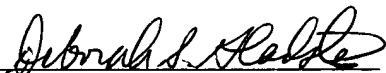
Applicants request that these amendments after final be entered in this case since they do not require further search and/or substantive consideration.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772015800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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